

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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21

ACTION EA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5291

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 10582

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINR, MILI, TH

SUBJECT: KRIT SIWARA'S RETIREMENT

1. WHEN ASKED ABOUT EXTENDING THE AGE LIMIT FOR GENERAL KRIT SIWARA'S RETIREMENT FROM THE ARMY, PRIME MINISTER KHUKRIT PRAMOT TOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE JUNE 3 THAT HE HAD NOT YET CONSIDERED THE MATTER. ACCORDING TO THE LOCAL PRESS, KRIT DENIED JUNE 4 THAT ANYONE HAD REQUESTED OR EVEN MENTIONED AN EXTENSION OF HIS MILITARY SERVICE. HE SAID THAT HE HAD NEVER HAD ANY INTENTION OF EXTENDING HIS SERVICE BEYOND HIS RETIREMENT DATE OF 30 SEPTEMBER 1975. HE CONFIRMED THAT HE WOULD NOT ACCEPT ANY EXTENSION EVEN IF THERE WERE SUCH A REQUEST.

2. KRIT TOLD THE DCM CATEGORICALLY ON JUNE 3 THAT HE WOULD NOT EXTEND. THIS JIBES WITH WHAT HE TOLD THE POLITICAL COUNSELOR MORE THAN A YEAR AGO. BOTH TIMES KRIT MENTIONED THE DIFFICULTIES WHICH SUCH EXTENTIONS HAD CAUSED FOR THANOM HITTIKHACHON AND PRAPHAT CHARUSATHIAN.

3. COMMENT: WE BELIEVE THAT AS OF THE PRESENT, KRIT INTENDS TO RETIRE FROM THE ARMY ON 30 SEPTEMBER 1975 AND TO SEEK A POLITICAL OFFICE VIA CONSTITUTIONAL MEANS. THERE IS LITTLE DOUBT, HOWEVER, THAT IF THE KING ASKED HIM TO REMAIN ON, HE WOULD DO SO.

WHITEHOUSE

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